

The Contrail

The official monthly newspaper of the 177th Fighter Wing



JUNE 2013, VOL. 47, NO. 06



PHOTO FLASHBACK

JUNE 2013, Vol. 47, No. 06

FEATURES:

Pg. 3: ESGR

Pg. 7: Spirit of AC

Pg. 9: Jaws of Life

Pg. 12: Alert Force

And more...

COVER: U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Maria Quinones from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron, 177th Fire Department, shows off life saving gear during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) "Boss Lift" base tour. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

SOCIAL MEDIA

Find us on the web!

www.177thFW.ang.af.mil

[Facebook.com/177FW](https://www.facebook.com/177FW)

[Twitter.com/177FW](https://twitter.com/177FW)

[Youtube.com/177thfighterwing](https://www.youtube.com/177thfighterwing)



A North American F-86 Sabre from the 119th Fighter Squadron, NJANG parked at an unknown location. The 119th FS flew the F-86E from 1955-1958, and the F-86F from 1962-1963.



This funded newspaper is an authorized monthly publication for members of the U.S. Military Services. Contents of the Contrail are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the 177th FW, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared, and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 177th Fighter Wing. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

177TH FW EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Kerry M. Gentry, Commander

1st Lt. Amanda Batiz, Public Affairs Officer

Master Sgt. Andrew Moseley, Public Affairs/Visual Information Manager

Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren, Photographer

Tech. Sgt. Andrew Merlock Jr., Photographer

Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht: Editor, Layout, Photographer, Writer

177FW/PA

400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234-9500

(609) 761-6259; (609) 677-6741 (FAX)

E-mail: 177fw.pa@ang.af.mil



A MESSAGE FROM THE WING COMMANDER

As the summertime approaches, motorcycle riders take to the streets, kids and adults get out their bicycles and vacationers begin to arrive in the area. We would like to take a moment to remind all unit members of the importance of making safety your top priority. Your use of risk management when it comes to safety is just as important to us off duty as it is on duty. Whether it be in a car, on a motorcycle, or riding a bicycle, use good judgment and common sense. Wear all of your proper personal protective equipment while riding your motorcycles and bicycles. Let's make this our safest season yet!

KERRY M. GENTRY

Colonel, NJANG

Wing Commander



Col. Kerry M. Gentry, Wing Commander of the 177th Fighter Wing, speaks to unit members before their "Beat the Blame Game" sexual assault awareness training conducted by Gail Stern, PhD. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



Employer Day

ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment. ESGR is supported by a network of more than 4,900 volunteers in 54 committees located across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam-CNMI, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Volunteers, hailing from small business and industry, government, education and prior military service bring a vast wealth of experience to assist in serving employers, service members and their families. Together with Headquarters ESGR staff and a small cadre of support staff for each State Committee, volunteers work to promote and enhance employer support for military service in the Guard and Reserve.



U.S. Air Force airmen from the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron Fire Department show off life-saving gear during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve base tour that shows off the capabilities and accomplishments of the National Guard to local employers of traditional Guardsmen on May 23, 2013. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177thFW/PA



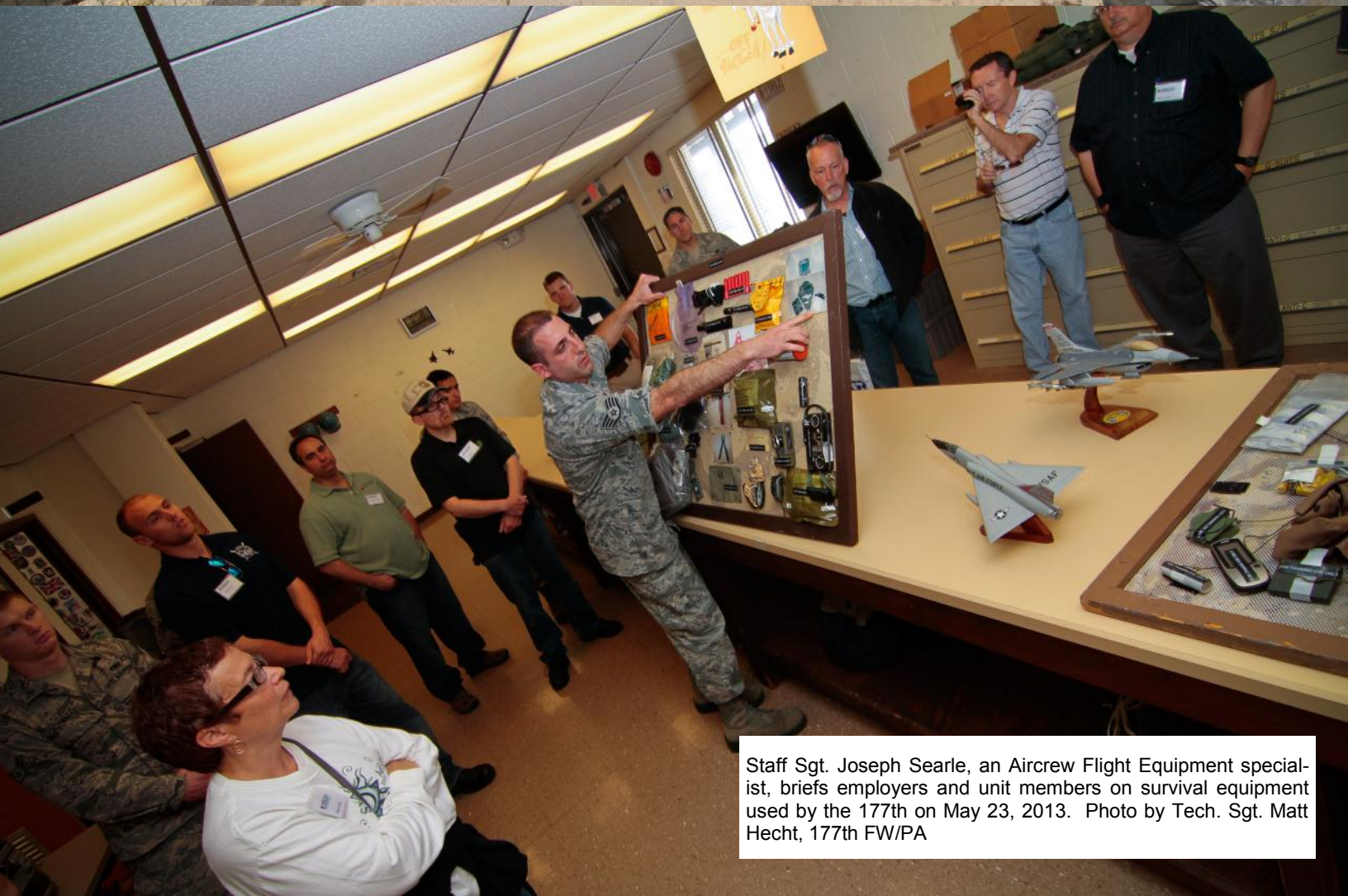
Col. Kerry M. Gentry, Wing Commander of the 177th Fighter Wing, addresses employers and unit members during the 2013 ESGR base tour on May 23, 2013. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA

Nominate your employer at the ESGR website—
www.esgr.mil





Senior Master Sgt. Steven Fernandez briefs employers and 177th Fighter Wing unit members on the capabilities and mission of the Warren Grove Range on May 23, 2013. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



Staff Sgt. Joseph Searle, an Aircrew Flight Equipment specialist, briefs employers and unit members on survival equipment used by the 177th on May 23, 2013. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

JFHQ TOUR

Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



Staff Sgt. Bob Taylor, an engine mechanic with the 177th Maintenance Squadron, gives a briefing to members of the New Jersey Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters team on May 18, 2013.



Members of the New Jersey Air National Guard Joint Force Headquarters pose for a group photo in front of a 177th Fighter Wing F-16C Fighting Falcon on May 18, 2013.



177th LEADS STATE IN BLOOD DONATIONS



Loriann Burris-Reinhardt, Community Blood Council of NJ

Keeping our hospitals supplied with blood and blood products is our primary concern. It is a seven day a week job, which the staff at the Community Blood Council is happy to be a part of. But the reality is that we are facilitators in this "Life Saving" process. It is only through your joint efforts and the generosity of your donors that together we can provide this opportunity.

I would like to encourage you to continue the good work you have done. Thank you for making your blood drive and its success a priority. Never forget that there are many people whose future depends on you and your donors.

We were able to collect 79 units of blood at your blood drive. Congratulations! With each unit benefitting 3 people you helped reach out to 237 patients!! On behalf of all the patients in New Jersey hospitals and their families, we extend our sincere thanks.

Airmen from the 177th Fighter Wing donate blood on June 6, 2013. Courtesy photo.

NEW TRACK OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Unit members with the 177th Fighter Wing , New Jersey Air National Guard complete the running portion of the U.S. Air Force Fitness Test at the air base's new running track on May 18, 2013. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



THE SPIRIT OF ATLANTIC CITY

Part 4

BY DR. RICHARD V. PORCELLI



Atlantic City's rich aviation history is little known, but this relationship dates back to just a few years after the Wright brothers' first flight. The purpose of this and subsequent articles is to relate the fascinating stories of this close relationship between Atlantic City and aviation.

Continued from Part 3 in the May 2013 Contrail

Bud Mahurin was quick to smile and laugh at himself. His contagious schoolboy grin and carefree behavior belied his serious dedication to being a fighter pilot. Dark-eyed and handsome, Mahurin was modest about his aerial successes which fellow pilots attributed to his "X-ray eyes" that did indeed spot enemy aircraft far before others in his group. Despite the press attention he received after becoming the leading ace in the European theatre, when shown articles describing his successes his first reaction was,

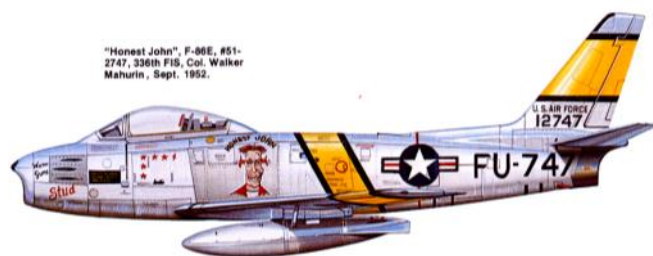
"Gee, I hope my mother doesn't see them – she'll worry herself sick (about me)."

Being a soft-spoken almost shy individual, he was uncomfortable and unaccustomed to the acclaim he received as a returning war hero. After a few weeks back stateside, he started pressuring all Air Corps commanders and officers he knew to get an assignment to the Pacific. He succeeded and was assigned as commander of the 3rd Fighter Squadron, 3rd Air Commando Group flying P-51D Mustangs in the Philippines. On January 14, 1945 Mahurin scored his only victory in the Pacific Theatre downing a Ki-46 Dinah twin-engine fighter, giving him a total score, adjusted after the war giving him partial credits for some of his kills, to 20.75 air-to-air combat victories. Unfortunately, before the war ended he was shot down again, this time by Japanese ground fire, and spent a number of perilous hours in a life raft before being found and rescued.

After the war he stayed in the service and was assigned to the Pentagon, serving in the Office of the newly created Secretary of the Air Force when the Korean War started in August 1950. Again, he called in his favors and hounded his superiors to get into the war. In July 1951 he was assigned to the 1st Fighter

Group at George AFB in California to transition to the F-86A Sabre and, in his words, to 'get up to speed with jets' before in December 1951 obtaining a 90-day temporary assignment as special assistant to Wing Commander, Col. Francis 'Gabby' Gabreski of the 51st Fighter Interceptor Wing based at Suwon, Korea (airbase K-13) flying the F-86E Sabre. Coincidentally, or perhaps not a coincidence, the 51st FIW was staffed by many of Mahurin's fellow veterans of the 56th Fighter Group, including Gabreski.

At the end of his TDY, Mahurin did not want to leave and was able to get assigned as Vice-Commander of the rival 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing based at Kimpo (airbase K-14) Korea. He shot down his first Mig-15 on January 6, 1952, followed by another 6 weeks later. On March 5, he shot down a third Mig-15 and shared the destruction of still another. At that point in the war, despite the fact that the Mig-15 had a higher ceiling and climb-rate than the Sabre and was often piloted by WW-II veteran Russian pilots, the USAF controlled the skies over Korea. The Migs however flew from safe-haven airfields across the Yalu River in Manchuria and could pick and choose when they would attack, especially targeting defenseless, heavily-laden UN fighter bombers. Often, weeks passed with no opportunity for air-to-air combat for the Sabre pilots.



While the Sabre was designated as an interceptor fighter, to draw the Migs into combat Mahurin and his 4th FIW began to fly close to the ground, shooting up trucks, tanks and other targets of opportunity. The Sabre's six 50-calibre Browning machine guns were accurate but lacked firepower. As he is quoted as saying,

"The only way we could do something important would be to equip our F-86s with bombs...why have hundreds



THE SPIRIT OF ATLANTIC CITY

Part 4

BY DR. RICHARD V. PORCELLI



of straight-wing fighter bombers (F-80s and F-84s) that couldn't defend themselves carry bombs, and have the F-86s at high altitude carrying only fuel, when we could carry bombs and also defend ourselves?"

So Mahurin decided to experiment with turning the Sabre into a fighter-bomber (a predecessor of today's strike-fighter concept) by mounting bombs under the wings. He tried combinations of two 500 pound bombs but lacking range, tried one 1000 pound bomb and one external fuel tank and even two 1000 pounders. Taking off on May 13, 1952 the target was a rail marshalling yard. Approaching the target, Mahurin spotted an enemy truck on the road and decided to strafe it on his way to the mission's primary target. He was hit by ground fire. While trying to reach the relative safety of the Yellow Sea, he inadvertently flew over two heavily defended towns; his Sabre was hit three or four more times. Too low to bail out, he rode the Sabre down to the ground, hitting a telephone pole before coming to a stop in a rice paddy. The Sabre broke in two, with the cockpit section ending upside down with Mahurin almost drowning in the putrid water.

Badly hurt, with a broken arm and bruised ribs, he was quickly captured by the North Koreans. They took him back to the wreckage of his jet, which had been surrounded by anti-aircraft guns as a 'flak trap' for any searching American aircraft, and told to help the soldiers dismantle the Sabre. He offered them little help and warned them not to touch the cockpit. Thinking it was only a ruse to prevent them from recovering valuable material, they persisted; but when a Korean soldier tried to remove the IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) set, it exploded – just as it had been engineered to prevent this classified instrumentation from getting into enemy hands. A number of Koreans were badly hurt by the blast and Mahurin subsequently suffered from a savage beating.

After three weeks, he was passed off to the Chinese.

For the next month and a half he was continuously interrogated on military matters, but then the subject turned political and the treatment became harsher. He was isolated from all other prisoners and held at a remote camp near the Korean - Chinese border. Told that his wife had been notified that he was killed in the crash, they threatened to hold him prisoner 'forever' despite the outcome of the war "since no one knew of his survival." Physical and mental torture worsened as they accused Mahurin of instigating a campaign of germ warfare against North Korea and China. Caving

in under the increasing weight of brainwashing and duress, Mahurin finally agreed to write "a confession" but worded in such a way, filled with obvious absurdities and inaccuracies, that its true nature would be transparent to anyone in the Free World.



Mahurin was the highest ranking USAF officer captured during the war and the last prisoner released by the Chinese, gaining his freedom in the fall of 1953. After the war, Col. Bud Mahurin's willingness to relate his experiences of physical and psychological pressures applied to American POWs while a captive of the Communists contributed to the development of current US military guidelines and survival procedures. Bud Mahurin retired from the Air Force in 1956 and spent many

years in the aviation industry and the Air Force Reserve where he reached the rank of Colonel.

A few years before his death on May 11, 2010 at age 91, Mahurin was asked about his favorite aircraft. With no hesitation, he quickly answered that *The Spirit of Atlantic City* held that special position in his heart; even his personal stationery was adorned with an image of *The Spirit*. And he was gladdened to learn before his passing that a French aviation archeology group had recently uncovered the crash site and that pieces of his *Spirit of Atlantic City* are now on display in a museum in Chartres, France - 3687 miles via the Great Circle Route from Atlantic City, where our story began.

JAWS OF LIFE

Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



Members of the 177th Fire Department practiced with portable eDRAULIC rescue equipment on a vehicle on June 6, 2013. Known as the "Jaws of Life," these tools include cutters, spreaders, door busters, and rams. These items are capable of cutting, opening, or even lifting a vehicle that has occupants that are in need of immediate medical assistance and rescue.



Around the Wing



U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Peter Masciola (center) stands with Col. Kerry M. Gentry, 177th FW Wing Commander, Col. John DiDonna, Vice Wing Commander, and the members of the 177th Legal team on May 18, 2013. Masciola was conducting an Article 6 visit, which is part of the Unit Compliance Inspection. Photo by Master Sgt. Shawn Mildren 177th FW/PA



RealWingmen Act!

If you think someone needs help - **ASK**

Get help for the individual in need - **ACT**

Remove the individual out of the immediate situation; don't leave your friend or a person in need alone with the possible offender - **INTERVENE**

**Preventing Sexual Assault
Is Everyone's Duty!**



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Raymond Wayne shows family members of Tech. Sgt. John Hurley the F6A robot used by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) on May 18, 2013. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

JERSEY DEVILS IN THE NEWS



COMBAT ACTION MEDAL



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. John Hurley (right) is awarded the Combat Action medal by Col. Michael Love (left), 177th Mission Support Group Commander, on May 18, 2013. Hurley is an EOD tech assigned to the 177th Civil Engineering Squadron. Hurley was awarded the U.S. Army Commendation medal and Combat Action medal for his part in a battle in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan on Aug 15, 2012. Photo by Tech. Sgt Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA

WILLIAMSON RETIRES



Lt. Col Ronald Williamson is awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by Brig. Gen. Robert C. Bolton (left) and Col Kerry M. Gentry (right) during his retirement ceremony on June 7, 2013. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA

BEAT THE BLAME GAME



Gail Stern, PhD, co-owner and chief academic office of Catharsis Productions, with Col. Robert C. Bolton (left) and Col. Kerry M. Gentry (right), pose for a photo after Stern's lecture on sexual assault, called "Beat the Blame Game". Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA

CHIEF INDIO RETIRES



Chief Master Sgt. Pedro Indio retired after 35 years of service on May 15, 2013. Photo by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



177th Fighter Wing Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) team member Staff Sgt Eligio Batiz returns the thumbs-up to fellow team member Staff Sgt Johnny Melendez, indicating that they are ready to re-apply the wheel chocks for a hot brake check after a practice ground scramble.



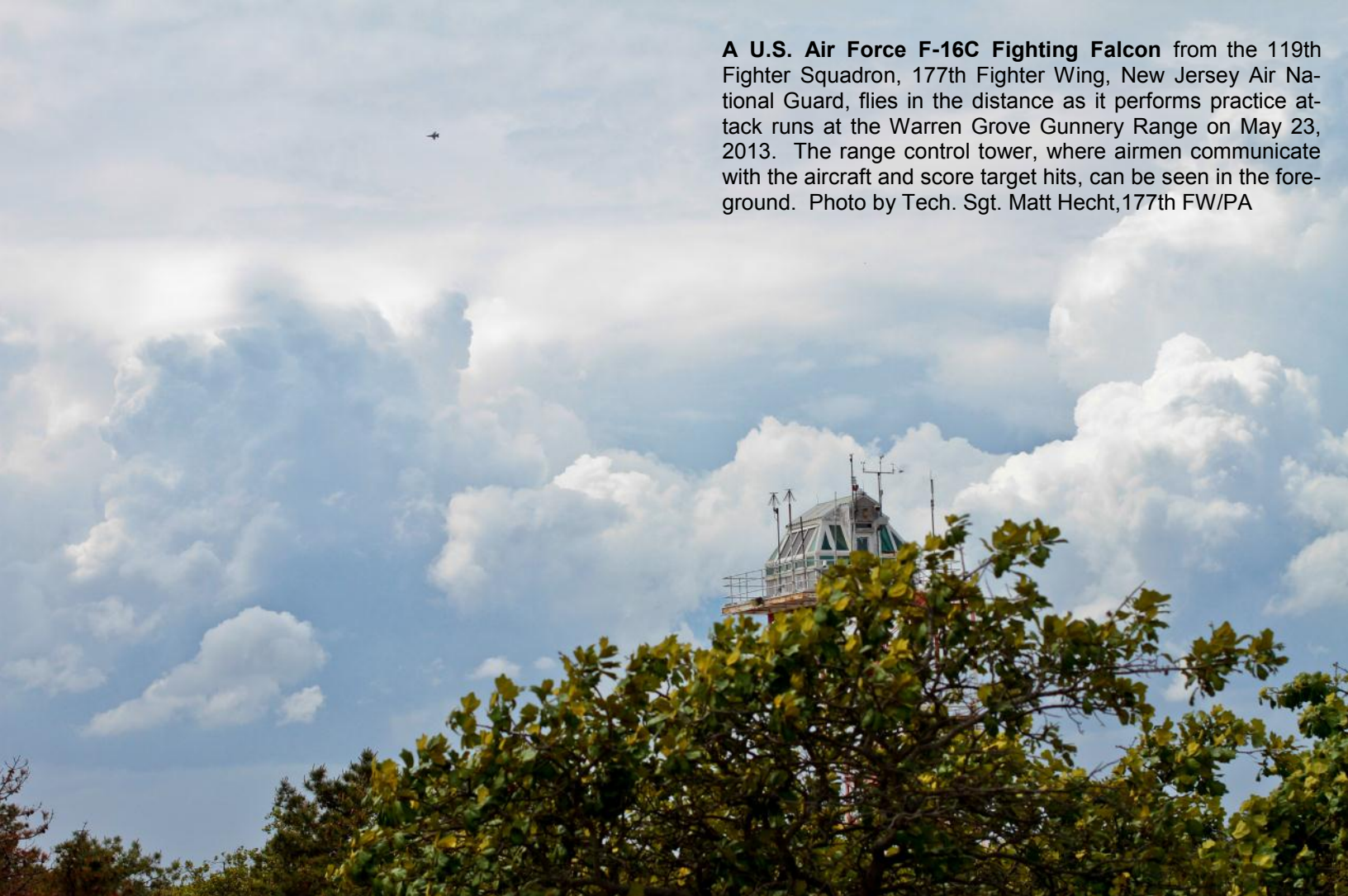
177th Fighter Wing Aerospace Control Alert team member Staff Sgt. Johnny Melendez signals a hold to F-16 pilot Capt. Michael Nicosan during a practice ground scramble on May 27, 2013.

ALERT FORCE

Photos by Master Sgt. Andrew J. Moseley, 177th FW/PA



177th Fighter Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) pilots and crew members pose for a group photo with Command Sergeant Major Robert W. Winzenried, command senior enlisted leader for North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, during a tour of the 177th Fighter Wing, NJ Air National Guard's ACA facility in Egg Harbor Township, NJ on May 29, 2013. Winzenried assumed the top enlisted post at NORAD and USNORTHCOM on September 15, 2012.



A U.S. Air Force F-16C Fighting Falcon from the 119th Fighter Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, flies in the distance as it performs practice attack runs at the Warren Grove Gunnery Range on May 23, 2013. The range control tower, where airmen communicate with the aircraft and score target hits, can be seen in the foreground. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA





FINAL PHOTO

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Kyle Brier gives a briefing on parachute rigging seen through night vision goggles during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) base tour, that shows off the capabilities and accomplishments of the National Guard to local employers of traditional Guardsmen on May 23, 2013. ESGR, a Department of Defense office, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Matt Hecht, 177th FW/PA